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41. (New) A multi-layer dielectric layer over a substrate for use in dual-damascene applications, comprising:

a barrier layer disposed over the substrate;

an inorganic dielectric layer of a fluorine doped oxide disposed over the barrier
5 layer; and

a low dielectric constant layer of a carbon doped oxide disposed directly over the
inorganic dielectric layer;

wherein a thickness of the inorganic dielectric layer of a fluorine doped oxide is
about 4500 Angstroms and is configured to receive vias, and wherein a thickness of the
10 low dielectric constant layer of a carbon doped oxide is greater than the thickness of the
inorganic dielectric layer of a fluorine doped oxide and is configured to receive
metallization line trenches during a dual-damascene process.

REMARKS


Claims 21-24, and 26-41 are pending after entry of this preliminary amendment.
Claims 1-20 and 25 have been cancelled. New claims 26-41 have been added, and no
new matter is presented.

20 The Specification is herein amended to correct typographical errors and minor
omissions in order to more clearly and accurately describe the claimed invention. No
new matter has been introduced.

This preliminary amendment is filed with a divisional application of Application
Number 09/346,156, filed on June 30, 1999. This divisional application is being filed
25 under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b).

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present preliminary amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900, ext. 6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM1P106D). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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